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Fifth Meeting, 28th January, 1867.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Viscount Adare; Richard Baxter, Esq.; Frederick N. Gisborne, Esq.; Carleton L'Estrange, Esq.; Alexander F. Low, Esq.; Charles Lanyon Owen, Esq.* (Lieut. Royal Marines); *Colonel C. W. Tremenneere, R.E.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING. *Donations.*—*'A Voyage to the Isle of Elba.'* By A. Thiébaud de Bernand. 1814. *'Remarks on some Parts of Italy.'* By Joseph Addison. 1701-1703. *'The Argonauticus of Apolonius Rhodius.'* By Francis Fawkes. 4 books. 1780. *'Travels of an Arab Merchant in Soudan, Darfur, Wadai.'* Translated by Bayle St. John. *'Diary in the Dardanelles, from Tenedos to Marmora.'* By Wm. Knight. 1849. All by S. M. Drach, Esq., F.R.G.S. *'Correspondence of Lieut.-Colonel L. Pelly, Political Resident, Persian Gulf, with Government of Bombay.'* Map-routes of caravan, &c. 1864. By the Secretary of State for India, *'Neueste Nachrichten aus den Innern Afrika's von G. Rohlf's.'* By Dr. Petermann. Lieutenant Ross, *'Visit to Kej, through Mekran, from Gwadur to Kurrachee.'* Also *'Notes on Mekran.'* By the Governor of Bombay. The Classified Index of the Athenæum Library Catalogue. 1867. By the Committee of the Athenæum Club. *'The Elements.'* Vol. 2. By Wm. S. Jordan. 1867. By the Author. *Statistics of New Zealand.* 1866. *'Relação da Exploração do Rio Purús'* by Joao Martins da Silva Coutinho. 1862. By Rev. J. C. Fletcher. *'L'Origine des Berbers-Thamon, à propos des Lettres sur la Sahara.'* By Henri Aucapitaine. By the Author. *Liber del Saber 'De Astronomia.'* Del Rey D. Alphonso de Castille. *'Die Bedeutung moderner Grand-Messungen.'* By Dr. Carl M. Bauerngeind. *'Kunde des Morgenlandes.'* Prof. Dr. Hermann Brockhaus. By the Author. *'Alcalá de Henares.'* Description por D. Antonio M. Lopez y Ramajo. 1861. *Purchased.*—*'The Story of the University Mission to Central Africa.'* Rev. Henry Rowley.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING.—Map to illustrate the Route of M. du Chaillu in Central Africa. Presented by the Author. 2 Maps of Asia Minor, Geographical and Geological. By P. de Tchihatchef. Presented by Sir R. I. Murchison, President. Map of Russia and Sweden, No. 36 of Stieler's Hand Atlas. Presented by A. Petermann. Map of Cooper's Creek and the adjoining Stony Desert, from the journeys of Sturt, Wills, McKinlay, and

Howitt, from 1845 to 1862. Presented by A. Petermann. Admiralty Charts, 12 in number. Ordnance Maps, 223 sheets, and 21 Area Books.

The following Papers were read :—

1. *On the Geography and Climate of India, in reference to the best Site for a Capital.* By the Hon. GEORGE CAMPBELL, of the Indian Civil Service.

(Extracts.)

IF it be conceded that a new capital is wanted, and if there be a pretty general agreement on the most essential requisites for a European capital in India, it only remains to go forth, map in hand, and try to find a suitable place. I have for many years had occasion to turn my attention to the collection of facts regarding the present condition of India, and have continued that practice till it has become a habit of my life. I have made the round of all the British Provinces. It has been my fortune to be employed in widely different parts of India, and thus to have acquired a personal familiarity with at least four of the great Administrative divisions.

The following are the points especially to be kept in view in selecting the site for the capital :—

1. It should be as far as possible central, geographically and politically, and easily accessible from the different parts of India.

2. It should be within easy reach of the sea, but not so near as to be exposed to danger of attack from the sea; *ceteris paribus*, that coast would be preferable from which there is the most direct and rapid communication with Europe.

3. The climate should be temperate, and, with such aid as local surroundings may afford, tolerable throughout the seven or eight warm months of the year. At the same time it should not be too cold, damp, or rainy, nor unfitted for native constitutions at that season.

4. The site should be sufficiently roomy, should afford space for some European settlement, and should possess such amenities in itself and in the neighbourhood as might be expected to attract settlers, schools, &c.

5. It should be within reach of the influences of the public opinion of a great European and civilised native community, engaged in practical business.

Among the requisites are some which must be considered, to a great degree, obligatory, and without a tolerable mark in which no candidate can be passed. These are, I think, climate and nearness to the sea, and perhaps also the immediate proximity of a great